

EPISODE #89
June 3, 1993

The Valley 66 COMIC N ♦ E ♦ W ♦ S

ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS!!

STORIES:

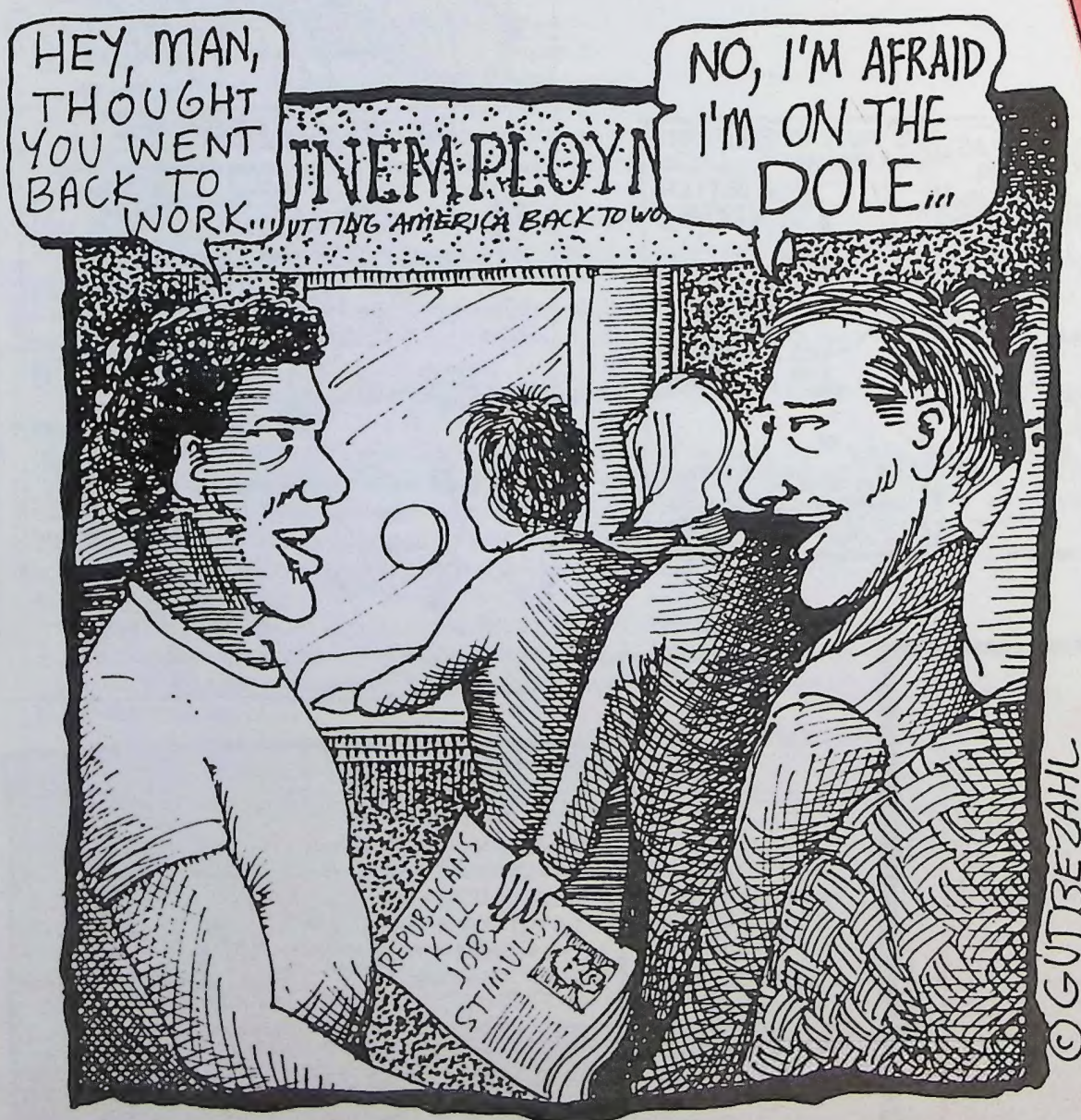
S*x

THIS & THAT

BEYOND POLITIX

GONE TO GRAVEYARDS, EVERY ONE

LONELINESS OF THE LONG-DISTANCE JOGGER

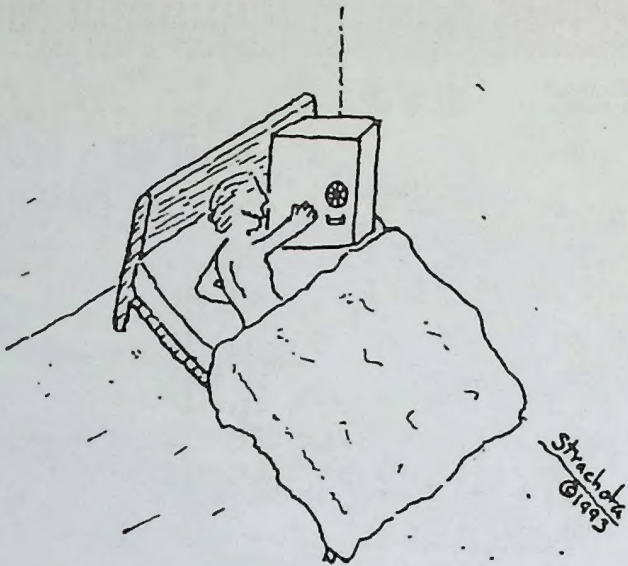


INSIDE

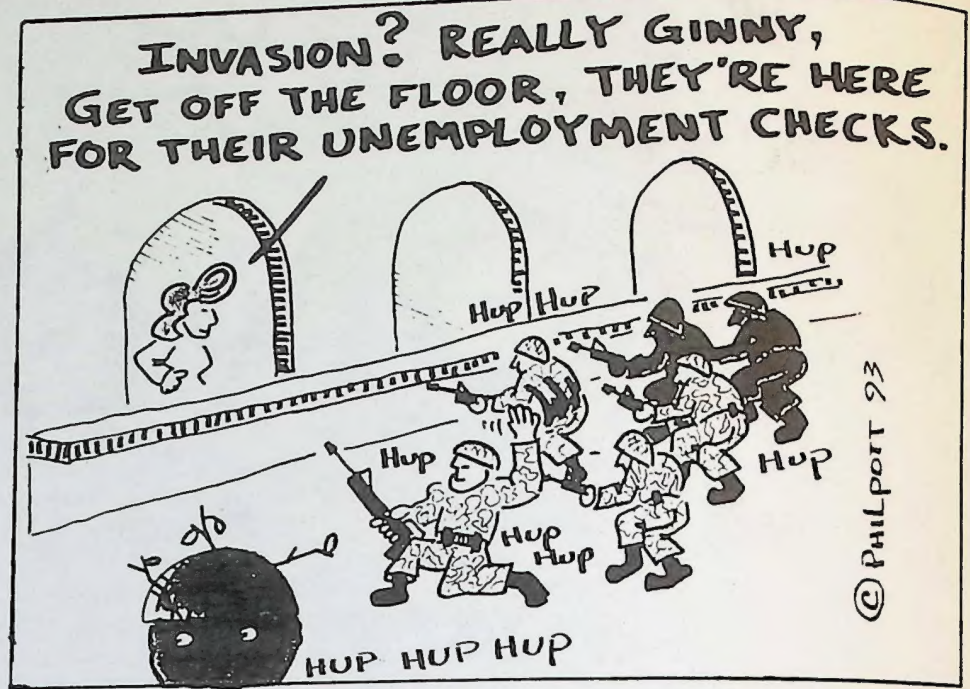
FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE,
DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS,
VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,
IZZY GESELL'S HUMOR ME,
THIS MODERN WORLD,
DREAM WORLD NEWS,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
LOCAL HEROES,
BRASS & FERN
EARTHWEEK



LOCAL HEROES

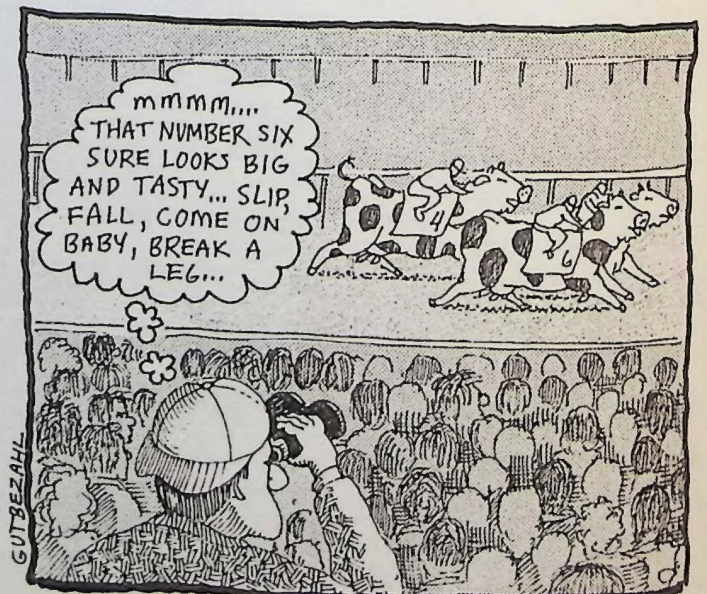
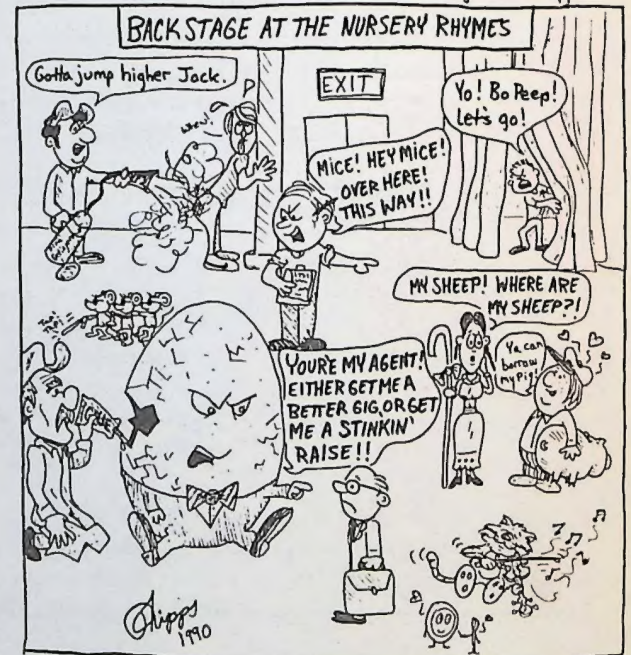
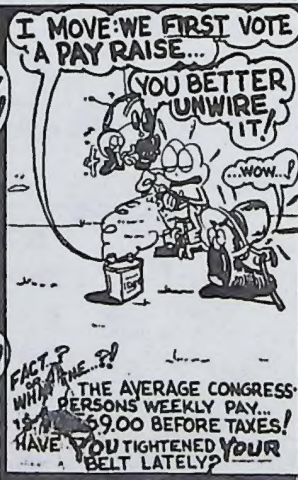


Safe sex



BALLOON VIEW

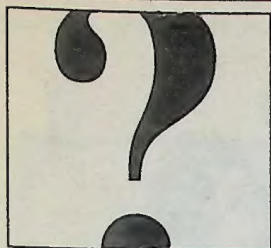
by Paul Phipps



THE BELMONT STEAKS

PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman



Summer is almost here, and if you're like me, you're just itching to sprawl on the beach, absorb trillions of cancerous solar lightwaves, and work on improving that all-important philosophical modality. This little item, for anybody who hasn't taken seven years of philosophy where they read books like *Nietzsche, Schopenhauer and Kant: a Really Lousy Infield*, is a fancy way of saying "big words to obscure the fact that I'm clueless." People say stuff like "philosophical modality" when they can't bear to tell themselves the truth, because the truth hurts, especially when it brings the whips and leather handcuffs.

And (if you're still like me) you'll be wishing somebody *else* could come up with a decent philosophical modality you can watch on video, so you won't have to use your brain this summer for anything besides saying, "Get me some more lemonade, OK?" Well, you're in luck, because this is philosophical modality day around my house, and I'm gonna let you all use one I'm finished with. I call it "The 9-to-5-Step Approach for Objectively Dealing With Potentially Un-Self-Actualizing Scenarios." This approach is for you, if you're someone who's overburdened by your job and have taken to cooking yourself senseless in the sun so all you can think about is your sunburn. Its simple key words will help you live a better life each hour of each working day. Unless you work at night. Here they are:

9: *Prepare*: Before you set off for your office or factory, take time to study your face in the mirror. Pretend you're using your boss's shaving cream. Or lipstick.

10: *Optionize*: As a vertebrate, you have a right to options. Don't be afraid to run, pass, punt, or fall to the earth underneath several strong men wearing uniforms.

11: *Decide*: Remember, the Chinese character for "crisis" means "unpaid cable bill." It is in your hands to maximize your life. Or ruin it.

12: *Critique*: Never rationalize when you have a chance to completely mislead. State your point succinctly, use eye contact, then break for lunch.

1: *Regenerate*: Remember the effect of body language. The last time the boss used body language with you, he spoke Albanian. Whenever possible, stay awake in meetings; sleep in the bathroom.

2: *Consensusize*: Assertively convince others to agree on something: bee sting remedies, disposal of cat vomit. Form a quality circle with co-workers and hold hands until your palms sweat.

3: *Plot*: Before that meeting you've dreaded all day, imagine your supervisor standing naked in a dusty square in Ulan Bator, surrounded by angry native children demanding Chiclets.

4: *Delay*: It's almost quitting time. Ask when the reception area will be getting more magazines.

5: *Create*: This is your chance to tell your co-workers what you've accomplished. If you've accomplished nothing, explain how you've been sick, though not sick enough to complain, and reveal that your great-aunt—the one who practically raised you and gave you the love your parents weren't capable of—well, she's not expected to make it through surgery, so you've really been preoccupied. Never forget that tomorrow is another day. So was yesterday.

After Hours: *Drink*: You are responsible for your own bar tab, and if you do not drink, co-workers will accuse you of not being a team player. Then when you travel to Cincinnati to represent your company in a major exhibition, they will complain they never know where you are.

Follow this regimen for five days, then after work the fifth day, repeat the following phrase: "Today is the first weekend of the rest of my life." And mean it.

The Valley Comic News

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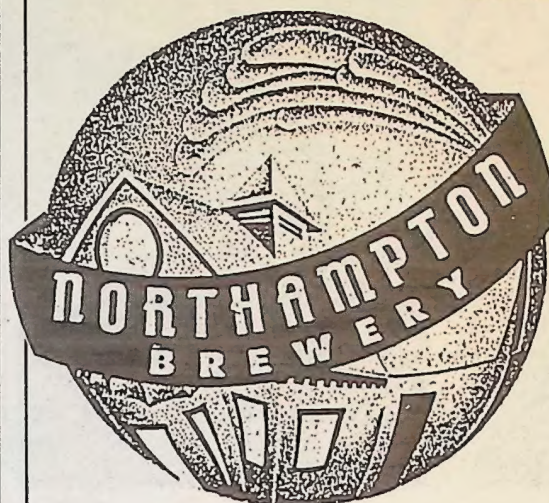
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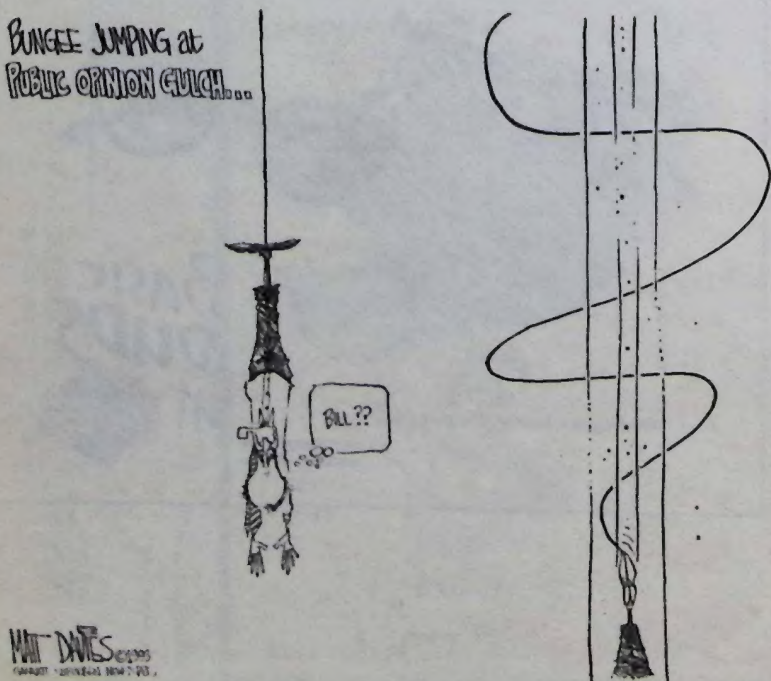
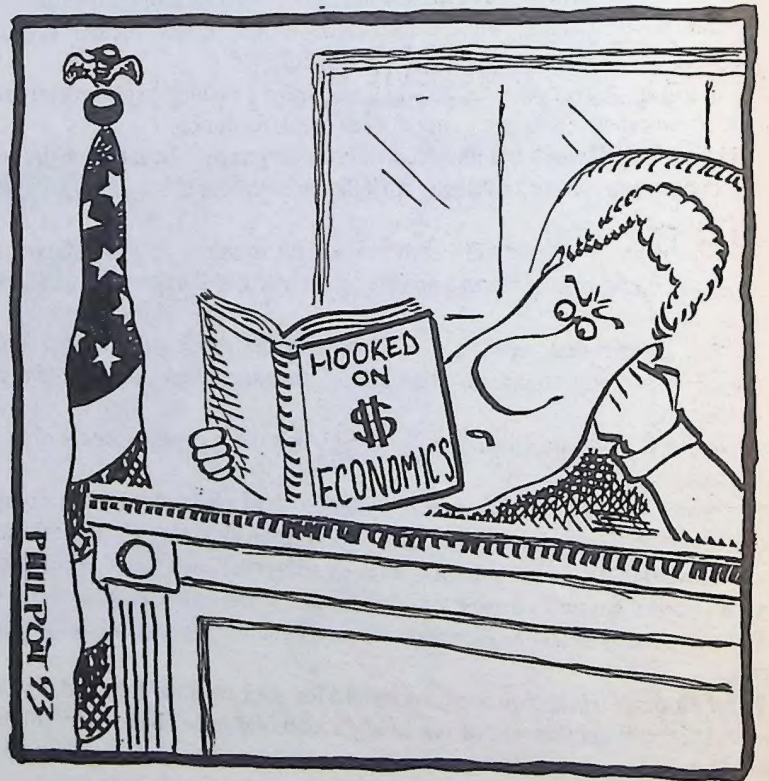
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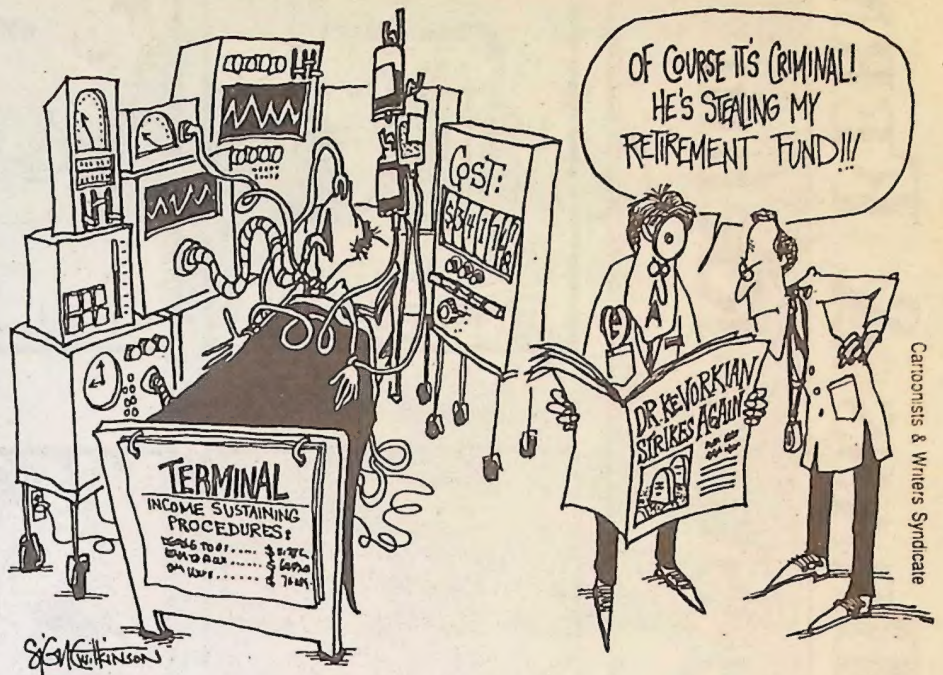
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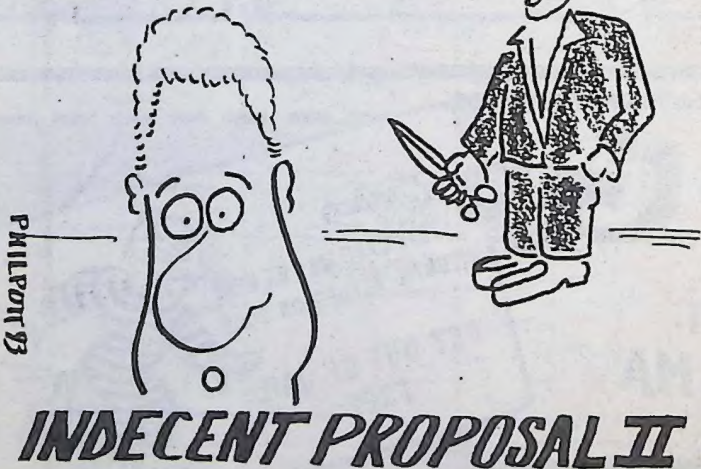
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ALMOST IN FLIGHT MOVIE OF THE WEEK.

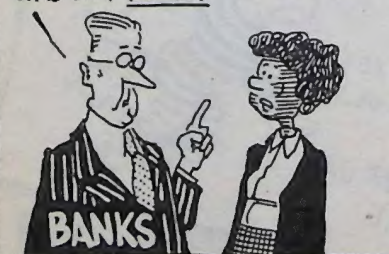
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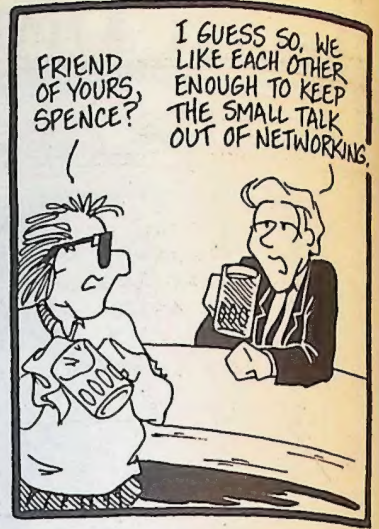
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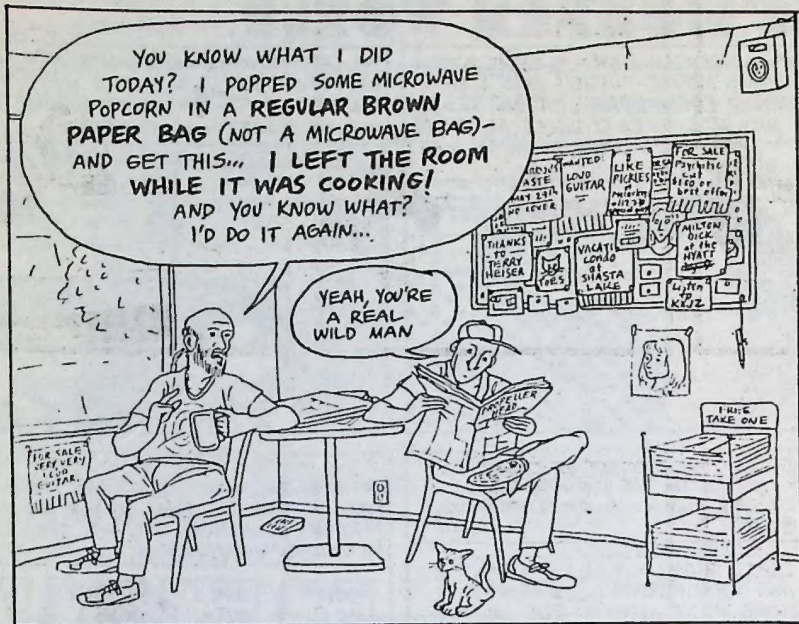
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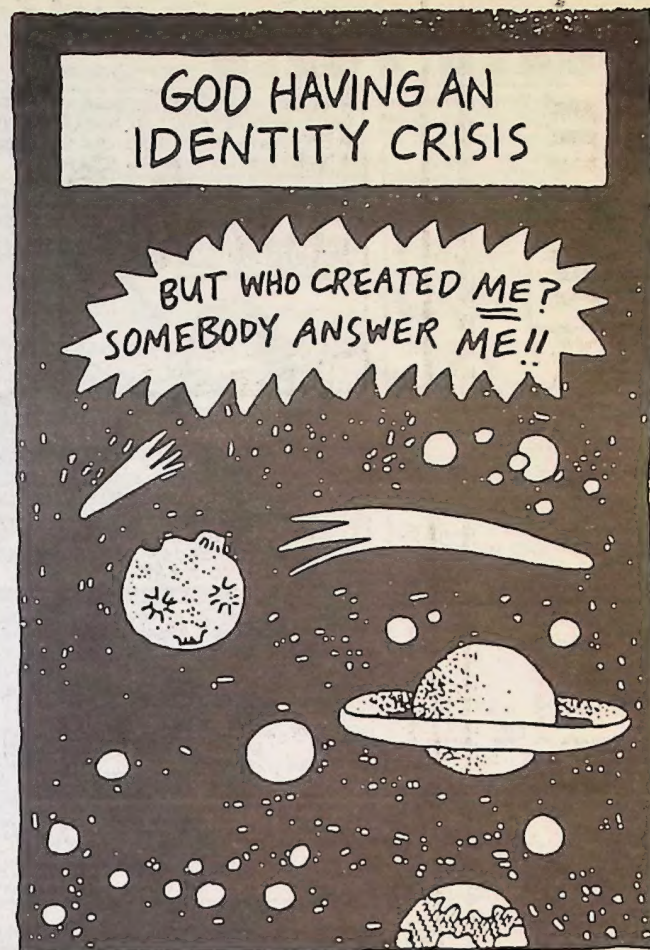
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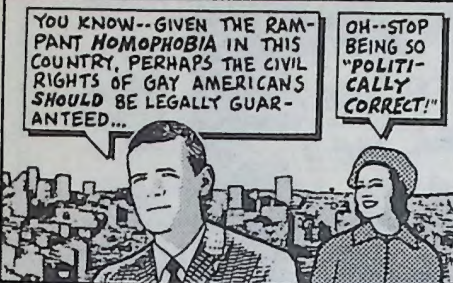


THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

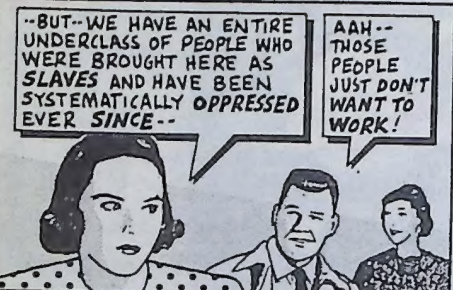
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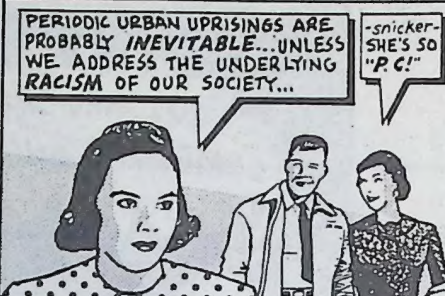
IF YOU EXPRESS SYMPATHY FOR THE DOWN-TRODDEN... IF YOU HOLD OPINIONS AT VARIANCE WITH THE STATUS QUO... WELL-- WE'VE GOT TWO SIMPLE WORDS TO PUT YOU IN YOUR PLACE...



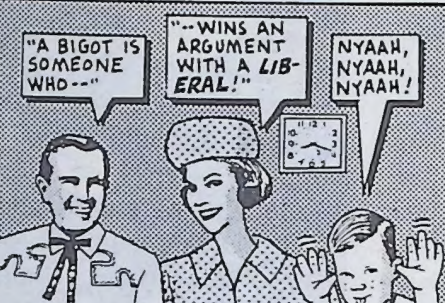
YOU SEE, WE'RE JUST NOT INTERESTED IN OTHER POINTS OF VIEW! WE DON'T CARE! WE'VE GOT OUR OPINIONS--AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET ANY TROUBLESOME FACTS GET IN THE WAY...



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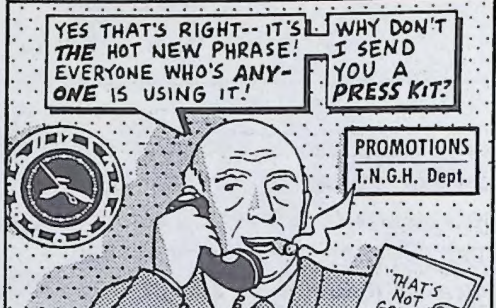
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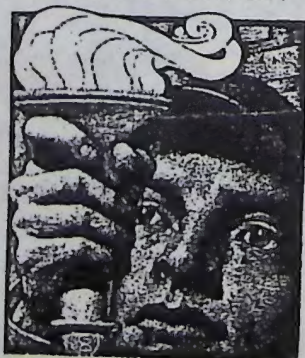


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JOE BOB BRIGGS

This is a great time to be a 12-year-old in Clemmons, North Carolina. The school board just passed a policy to hand out two bucks every time you read a book.

I'm not kidding. Read the book. Collect two dollars. Do not go to jail.

I'm a little upset about it. This is *one more thing* they didn't have when I was in school. They didn't have karate class, and they didn't have the cold-cash-for-reading program. All they ever gave us was a lousy certificate with gold stickers on it. And you had to read *ten* books before you even got *that*.

I could have worked this scam so smoothly I'd still be living off the profits today. First of all, you always start with *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, the book that nobody would ever read except that it's the shortest book ever written that impresses teachers. Next, you find one of those rinky-dink branch libraries that stocks a full supply of Cliff's Notes. On a good day, you could rack up forty bucks, *even if you had to write a book report on every book*.

Third, you can always find at least one teacher who believes the Hardy Boys books are educational. And if that doesn't work, you can read obscure sports books with strange titles that are just *barely* impressive enough to make the teacher think there's something valuable inside. A title like *Baseball and America's Cultural Heritage*. Just make sure you don't have the book in your possession when the teacher asks about it. "Oh, I already took it back to the library." That way they'll never find out it was full of pictures of Ty Cobb and Satchel Paige.

And then, once you did this for about, oh, six months, you'd be ready for the true big leagues — writing book reports on books that *don't even exist*. You just make up a title, like *Grover Cleveland: Man of Destiny*, and then you read a two-page article on Grover Cleveland in the World Book, and then you put *just enough* specific information in the book report to make the teacher aware that you read *something*, even if they can't be sure just what it was. Pick the author's names out of the

phone book. The ones you'd make up, like "James Smith," are too obvious. Find names like "Lazarus P. Stickney."

They'll fall for this every time. And you know why? Because they don't believe a kid that young can think this stuff up.

Anyhow, I lost my big chance, because they didn't start doing this until a couple weeks ago in Clemmons, North Carolina. The idea the school board had is that "at risk" children should be encouraged to read books, because it will keep them out of trouble. When the cash-payment plan was first proposed, they had a brutal fight, breaking down along class lines. The wealthier, mostly white parents thought it was the most idiotic thing they'd ever heard of. The black parents — and the black school board members — were mostly for it. And the debate reached its highest point one night when a woman was saying, "Maybe if we just tried to teach the kids about books in such a way that they would *want* to read them...."

And she was interrupted by a

school board member who burst out, "These kids don't want books! These kids want money!"

And that settled it. The school board voted for money.

And then there was this long post-mortem where people went around shaking their heads, saying things like, "Well, we live in different times. Kids are different today than when we were growing up."

No they're not.

I wanted money, too.

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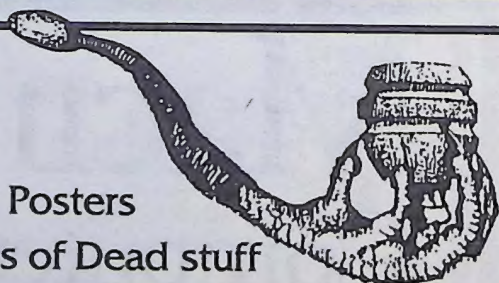
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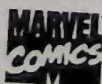
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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Q. How fast can good paddlers move their canoes?
A. About 7 mph.

The Greek philosopher Epicurus calculated the sun was approximately two feet in diameter.

If you think top executives of major corporations tend to remain confidently on course, consider the fact that the Ford Motor Company has changed its logo more than 25 times since World War II.

When Sigmund Freud first bought it for "therapeutic" use, cocaine was selling for \$1.27 a gram.

The four-pronged fork has been a standard utensil for only about a hundred years.

Q. Where'd we get the expression "to bone up" on something?

A. From West African shamans, brought to this country as slaves. They rolled bones on the ground, then read the future from their patterns.

Levi Strauss first called jeans "waist overalls."

Bertrand Russell commented, "It's healthy now and then to hang a question mark on things you've long taken for granted."

It takes about 110 silkworm cocoons for enough silk to make a necktie.

"Hide and Seek" is not so much a learned game as a game of nature, evidently. Otters play it. So do young deer and cats. Incidentally, how you say it depends on where you grew up. Many people call it "Hide and Go Seek."

A shark can hear the heartbeats of other fish.

A reliable source reports that the red aircraft beacon atop the Capitol Records building in Hollywood blinks the word "Hollywood" in Morse code.

Q. Do two hurricanes ever collide?

A. No. One gets weaker, and they rotate past each other.

Thought for the day: Don't drive as if you owned the road. Drive as if you owned the car.

The writer Helen Rowland critiqued the human male's kissing performance thusly: "A man snatches the first kiss, pleads for the second, demands the third, takes the fourth, accepts the fifth — and endures all the rest."

On average your skeleton is its most massive at age 35.

You know those plants that trap insects? What they crave is nitrogen. They usually grow in soil where heavy rains or standing water leach out all the nitrogen.

Divorced men over 50, if they remarry, tend to match up with women who on average are four years younger. Only one in 25 marries a woman 20 years younger.

Duke Ellington's final tribute to Louis Armstrong went: "He was born poor. He died rich. And he never hurt anybody along the way."

Freud said cats are sex symbols.

Scarecrows in Sri Lanka wear sarongs.

An unemployment rate of 80 percent sounds catastrophic, but that's normal in Actors' Equity.

Frederick the Great (king of Prussia in the 18th century) required his coffee to be made as follows: Steep it in champagne, then add a dollop of mustard.

Robert Frost said, "Happiness makes up in height for what it lacks in length."

Those Americans who kill themselves on purpose outnumber those who kill other people on purpose.

Wildlife researchers report that leopards like to drink daily, but can go for as long as a month without water.

Q. Were there any signers of The Declaration of Independence who ever saw a railroad train?

A. Just one. Charles Carroll, who died at age 95 in 1832.

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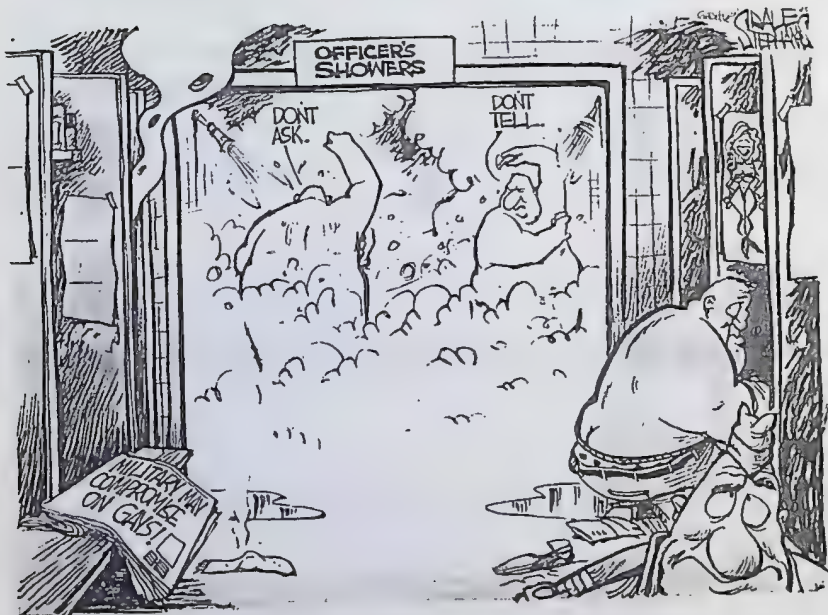
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THU
THREE

Vertex: Selectrocution **Baystate Hotel:** PEACEBOMB **Dave's Other Place:** Art Steele Blues Band **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Pearl Street:** Shockra, Savoy Truffle **Alley Oops:** DJ Bobby C—all requests **Charlemont Inn:** open mic **Green River Cafe:** Mega dance party, w/ DJ Devlyn

FRI
FOUR

Dave's Other Place: Scott Sasanecki **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Huke Lau/Comedy Connection:** Polynesian Show **Hotel Northampton:** Jac Veronesi, Montenia Jazz Trio **Pearl Street:** New York Centerfolds, Tattoo Jungle **Iron Horse:** Greg Brown, Bill Morrissey **Baystate Hotel:** Wildcat O'Halloran Blues Band **Green River Cafe:** Beth Jochum & Brenda Fisher, w/ Jude Klucitas **Charlemont Inn:** Ruby

SAT
FIVE

Vertex: Selectrocution **Baystate Hotel:** Curious Ritual, special guests **Green River Cafe:** Ragtime Bill Busteed **Hotel Northampton:** Hal Benoit, Dave Brunelle **Iron Horse:** Brooks Williams **Pearl Street:** Texas Flood (Stevie Ray Vaughn tribute) **Huke Lau/Comedy Connection:** Dennis Wolfberg **Charlemont Inn:** Equalites **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Dave's Other Place:** Tom McClung & his baby grand **Northampton Center for the Arts:** Hot Food Hot Jazz Festival @ Northampton airport

SUN
SIX

Iron Horse: Sharon Shannon **Green River Cafe:** Temple of the Moon dance troupe **Vertex:** Draw Back, Delusion **Pearl Street:** J.J. Cale, Loudon Wainright III

MON
SEVEN

Baystate Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights **Iron Horse:** Michelle Shocked

TUE
EIGHT

Iron Horse: Michelle Shocked



WED
NINE

Vertex: Reggae — New Horizon **Baystate Hotel:** Baystate Cabaret — Gutters, Pelorious Jack, Petty



Amy Tan, novelist and Remainderette, at Pearl Street

Tobey photo



THU
TEN

Vertex: Selectrocution **Iron Horse:** Glen Velez w/ Steve Gorn, Randy Crafton & Howard Levy **Alley Oops:** All Request w/ DJ Bobby C. **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Dave's Other Place:** Chuck Morris & The Sidewalk Blues Band **Charlemont Inn:** open mic **Baystate Hotel:** New Radiant Storm King, Cudgel **Green River Cafe:** Marcello Blanco and Russ Cobe

FRI
ELEVEN

Baystate Hotel: Baystate Cabaret — The Bend, Fergus & The Blackbirds **Dave's Other Place:** Café Society **Green River Cafe:** Cindy Kallet **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Vertex:** Philthy Lucre **Iron Horse:** Luther Guitar Jr. Johnson **Hotel Northampton:** Mark Maulucci, Jac Veronesi **Charlemont Inn:** Riverfront Jump **Pearl Street:** Wind (Grateful Dead tribute)

SAT
TWELVE

City Cafe: DJ w/ dance music **Iron Horse:** The Nields, Between The Lines **Green River Cafe:** Jim Henry **Vertex:** Selectrocution **Dave's Other Place:** Spyder Murphy Quartet **Hotel Northampton:** Mark Maulucci, Dave Brunelle **Pearl Street:** The Pursuit of Happiness **Charlemont Inn:** Working Stiffs

SUN
THIRTEEN

Alley Oops: New Country w/ DJ Mike P. **Green River Cafe:** Michael Nix **Pearl Street:** Clannad

MON
FOURTEEN

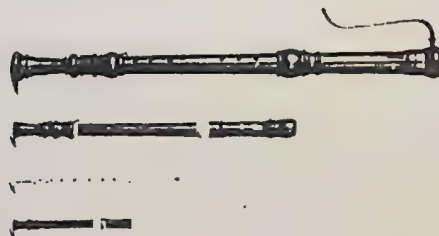
Baystate Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & the Fabulous Heavyweights **Pearl Street:** 4 Non Blondes, Love Minus Zero

TUE
FIFTEEN

Iron Horse: Kate & Anna McGarrigle

WED
SIXTEEN

Iron Horse: Tuck & Patti **Porter-Phelps-Huntington House:** Wednesday Folk Traditions — Mili Bermejo, Dan Greenspan, Mick Goodrick



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MUSIC HALL

FRI 4+

GREG BROWN and
BILL MORRISSEY

SAT 5+

BROOKS WILLIAMS

SUN 6+

SHARON SHANNON

MON 7 & TUE 8

MICHELLE SHOCKED

THU 10+

Master
Hand Drummer

GLEN VELEZ w/ STEVE
GORN, RANDY CRAFTON
& HOWARD LEVY

FRI 11+

LUTHER GUITAR JR. JOHNSON

SAT 12+ 7 PM

THE NIELDS
plus BETWEEN THE LINES

TUE 15+

KATE & ANNA MCGARRIGLE

WED 16 7 & 10 PM

TUCK & PATTI

THU 17

FREEDY JOHNSTON

FRI 18

JOE KEENAN

SAT 19+

KNOTS & CROSSES

SUN 20

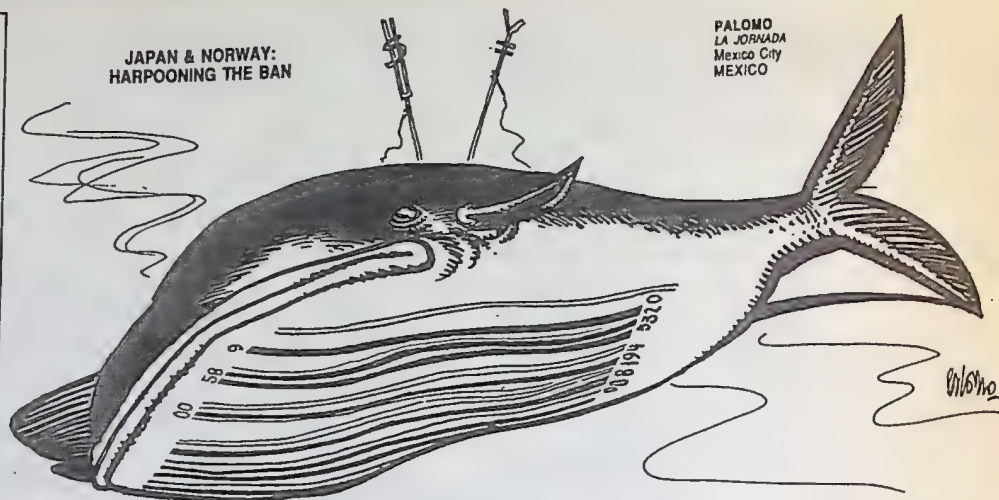
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VIEWS OF THE WORLD



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DreamWorldNews

MAGNETS REPLACE ROOSTERS

Cockfighting enthusiasts, bowing to pressure from animal rights advocates, are replacing their roosters with giant magnets.

In the new sport, the players pit their magnets against each other in a dirt ring. The largest, most powerful magnet wins.

The players, mostly immigrants

from Latin America and the Carribean, lavish as much attention on their magnets as they formerly did on their roosters. The most popular magnets are variations on the traditional horseshoe shape. Others are actually shaped like roosters and measure two to three feet in height.

Some players have customized their magnets by welding on ornamental pieces of brightly colored metal and building special carrying cases.

Dogs feared missing in famine escape bid

Ten dogs were spotted last night clinging to a hot-air balloon high above Somalia. Sources say the dogs were attempting to escape famine in that country.

The dogs' balloon scheme was abetted by foreign aid workers who helped the crafty canines smuggle rubber and rope into the Mogadishu famine camp.

The dogs are reportedly low on supplies. "They took only two bags

of chow," said a dog found loitering after curfew in Mogadishu's deserted streets. "I fear for their souls."



Excerpted from DreamWorldNews. For further information write Box 515, Northampton, MA 01060

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Earthquakes

 A pair of strong temblors rocked a wide area of Mexico from an epicenter along the coast of Guerrero. The strongest caused panic in Mexico City where residents rushed into the streets.

Parts of central California and western Nevada were shaken by a sharp quake and several aftershocks that knocked pictures off the walls of homes near Bishop, Calif.


In a very active week for world-wide seismic activity, movements were also felt in Taiwan, the Aleutian Islands, the northern Philippines, Western Samoa and the Tonga Islands, extreme southern Japan, southeast Iran, central and southern Alaska, New Britain, and southern Texas.

Tropical Storms

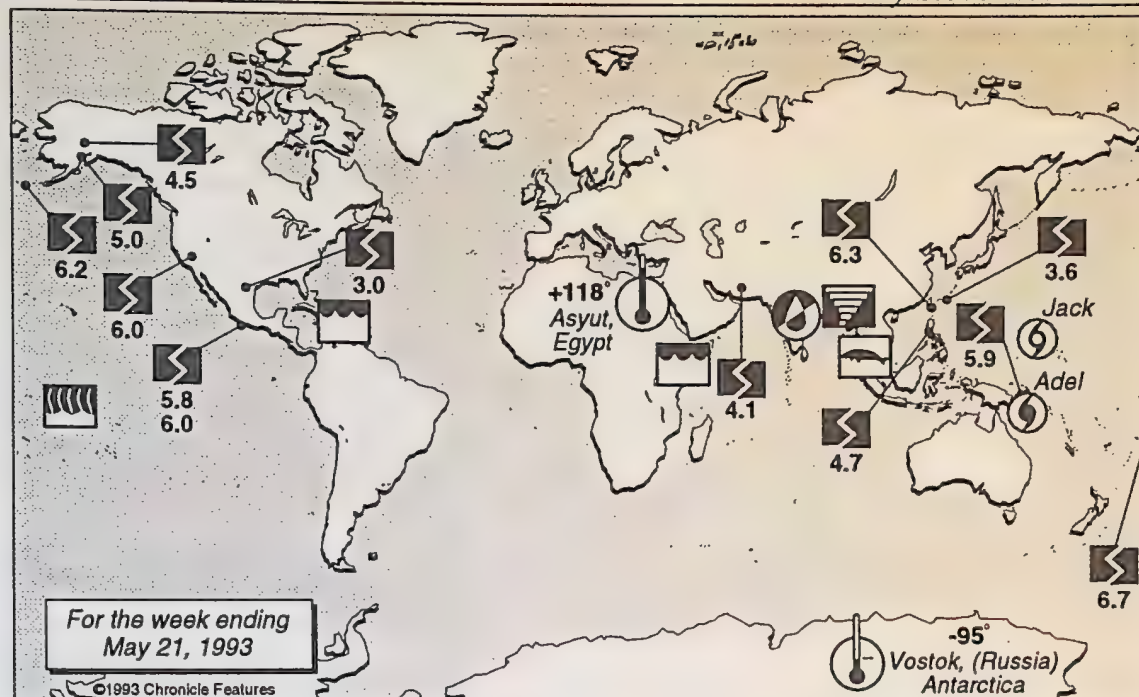
 Cyclone Adel left at least one person dead and more than 800 homes destroyed after it moved through the Solomon Islands. The center of the storm passed directly over Bougainville then lost force before reaching the Papua New Guinea capital of Port Moresby.


Tropical storm Jack brought rough seas and gales to the northern Marshall Islands.

Floods


 Seven people were killed when a river overflowed and flooded their homes in the northern Dominican Republic. Dominican Civil Defense Director Eugenio Cabral said his organization "is tired of warning families not to build makeshift homes near rivers and on mountainsides because of the frequent rains and hurricanes which strike the country."

Heavy rains in southern Ethiopia ruined crops and washed away farm animals, and left almost 5,000 people homeless. Sixteen people were reported to have drowned in the flooding.

**Drought**

 A delayed onset of monsoon rains has led to an acute shortage of drinking water across a wide area of India. The United News of India reported that violence erupted when irate, thirsty residents of Jaipur, the most popular tourist destination in the country, blocked the New Delhi-Jaipur highway and threw stones at police officers. The water table in many areas has either dried up or dipped to a dangerously low level. In New Delhi and Madras, people get piped water in dribbles on alternate days for only one hour.


El Niño

 The warm water ocean phenomenon called El Niño has reached its mature phase across the tropical Pacific. After bringing the western U.S. an extremely wet winter and breaking a drought in the Andes, the warm ocean currents are predicted

to bring a drier than normal monsoon season to northern India and Pakistan, and an unusually dry summer to Central America. Increased tropical storm development off Mexico may send surges of rainfall into the Great Basin of the U.S. during the next few months.


It's believed that El Niño's atmospheric disruptions were responsible for recent floods and mudslides from Ecuador to northern Chile.

Twister

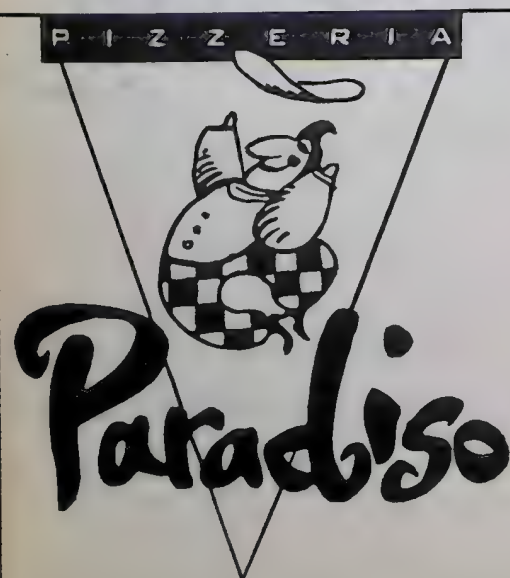
 At least 35 people were killed as a tornado struck eastern Bangladesh, flattening homes in two villages, uprooting trees and power lines, and blocking roads. The Bengali-language daily *Janata* said rescue workers were sifting through the debris in Begamganj, the worst-affected town, for more bodies.

Severe thunderstorms three days later spawned lightning which killed nine people across northern Bangladesh.

Manatee Mama

 Scientists in Thailand's resort of Phuket are looking for a woman to help nurture an endangered infant dugong through childhood. Moo Noi, a baby sea cow, was accidentally captured in a fishing net and has barely eaten enough to survive since it was brought to the Marine Biological Center. "Right now we have a male scientist working with Moo Noi, but I feel that the dugong doesn't feel quite happy," said Plodprasop Suraswadi, Director General of the Department of Fisheries. He seeks a woman who will spend two to three hours a day in the water, feeding and playing with the dugong, which is about three feet long. "Our experience is that they are very sensitive and need love very much," Plodprasop added.

Additional Sources: Japan Meteorological Agency, U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the U.N.'s World Meteorological Organization.



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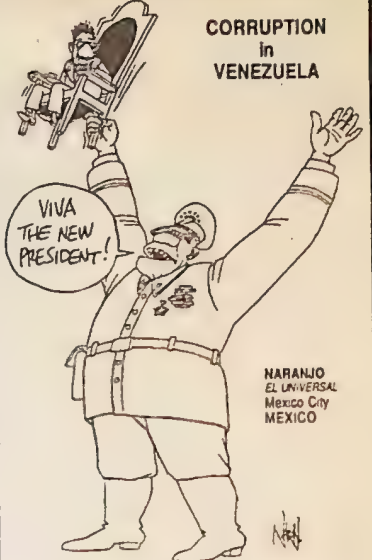
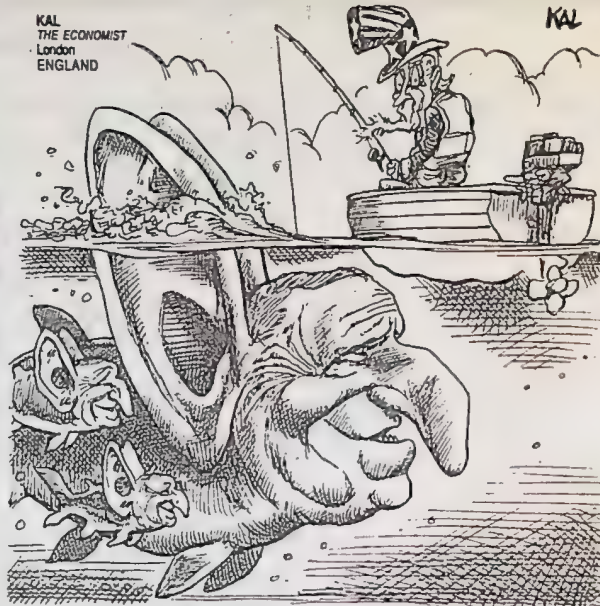


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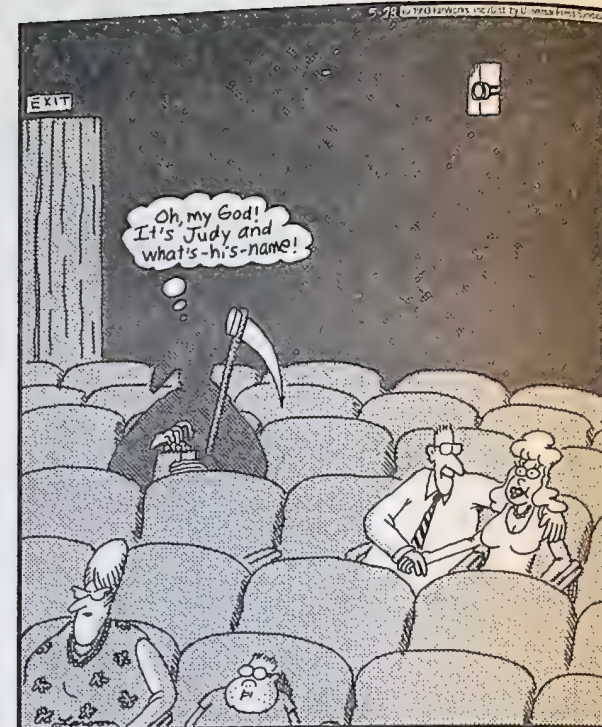
By GARY LARSON



"Oh, boy, was *that* an ugly day. ... Roy instantly took the bird in to be debeaked, all the way yelling, 'Tit for tat! Tit for tat!'"



It was a tough frontier town; but later, after the arrival of the Earp brothers, things calmed down, and the town's name was shortened to simply Dodge City.



As his eyes grew accustomed to the dark, Death suddenly noticed his girlfriend sitting with Dr. Jack Kevorkian.

SOLID TEST PREP

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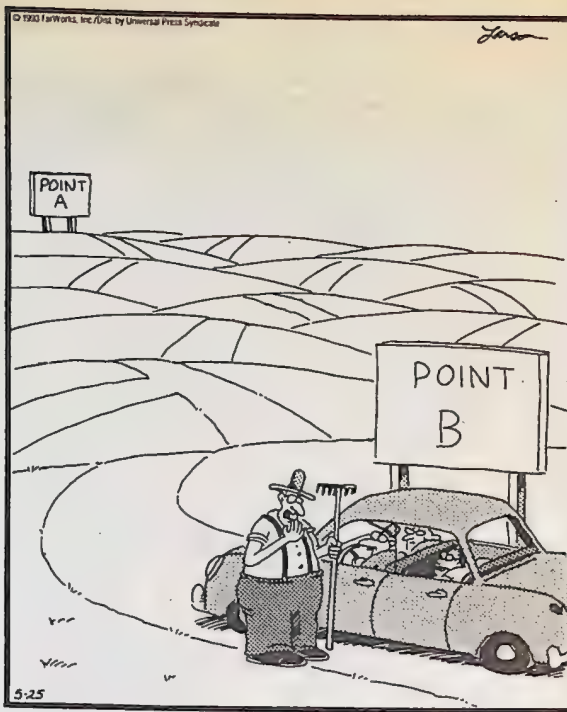
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"Mmmmm ... Interesting ... interesting. ... I'd say we taste a little like chicken."



"Well, lemme think. ... You've stumped me, son. Most folks only wanna know how to go the other way."



"Oh, my God! Dung beetles! ... And in their filthy dungarees, of course!"



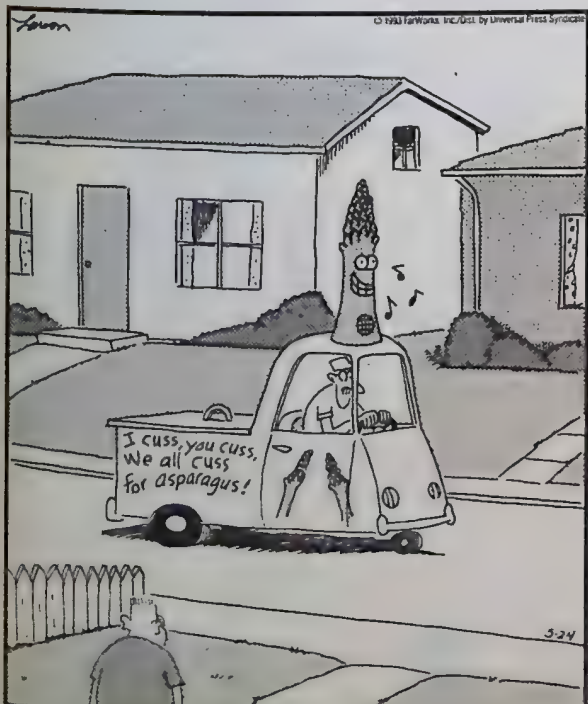
"Wow. ... That's ironic. I think something bit me."



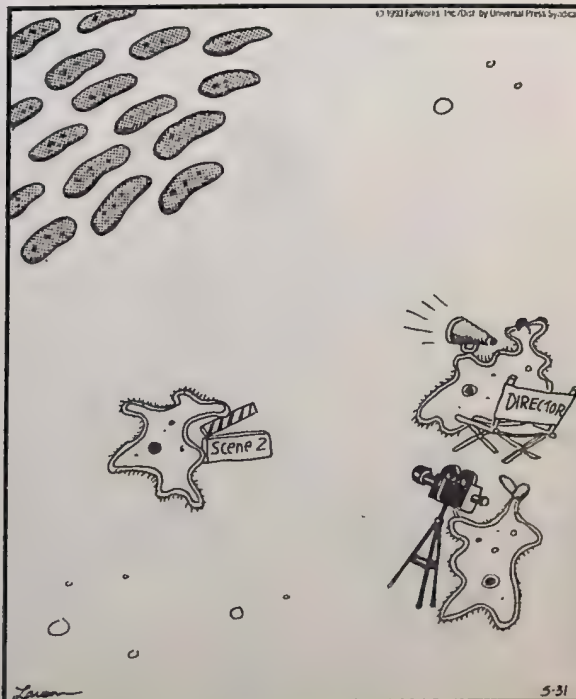
"Egad! It's Professor DeArmond — the epitome of evil amongst butterfly collectors!"



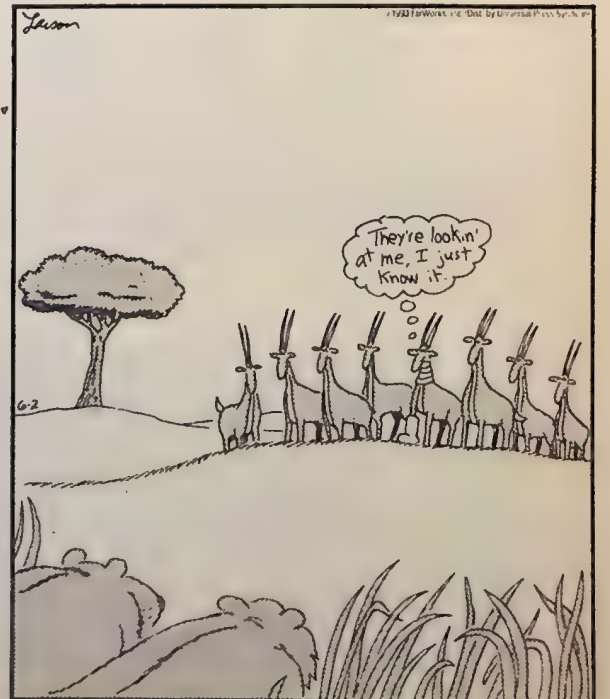
"Oh my God! It's Leonard! ... He's stuffed himself."



Failed marketing plays



"OK! When I say 'action,' all you bacteria charge the camera! ... Remember, this is the biggest scene in the whole movie — relatively speaking!"



Leold

by Roger & Salem Salloom

*I carefully read the labels
in the supermarket.*

*I try to eat lots of food with
plenty of preservatives.*

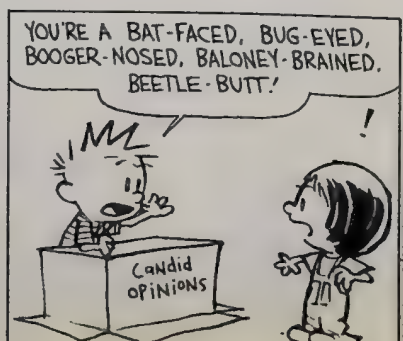
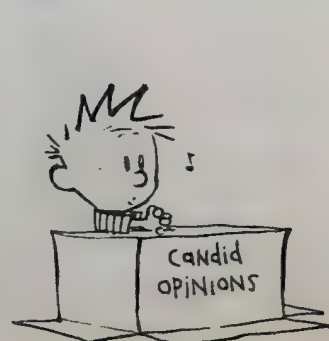
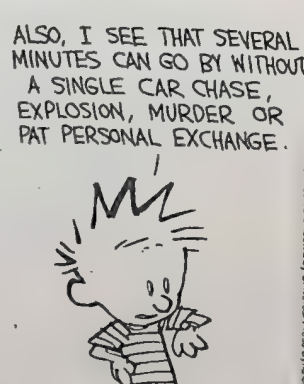
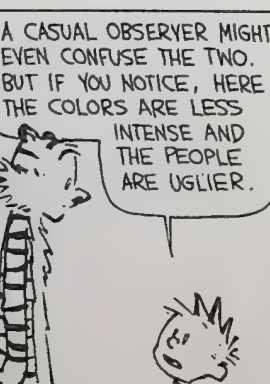
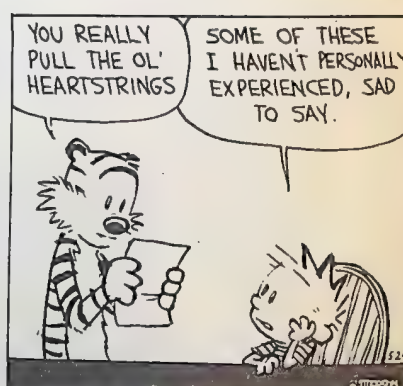
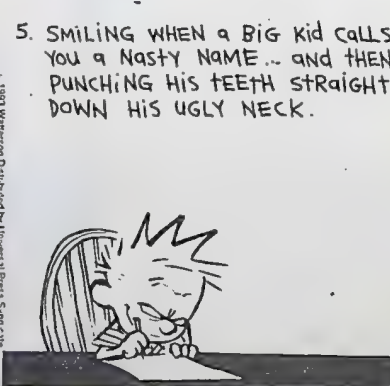
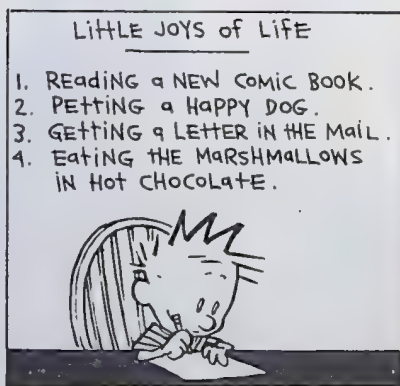
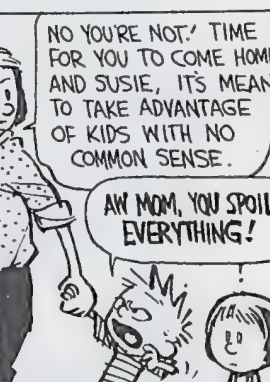
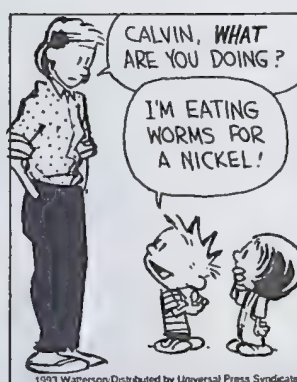
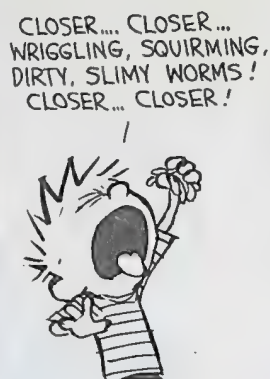
*If the preservatives keep
food fresher, why won't they keep
me fresher.....*

*I'll live longer
I won't need deodorant.
Life is good.*



calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATTERSON



TODAY FOR SHOW AND TELL, I'VE BROUGHT IN SOME FLASH CARDS I MADE.

EACH CARD HAS A LETTER FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL DASHES. WHEN I SHOW THE CARD, YOU YELL THE VULGAR, OBSCENE OR BLASPHEMOUS WORD THEY STAND FOR! ... READY?

SHE'S SUCH A HYPOCRITE ABOUT BUILDING VOCABULARY.

I BELIEVE PERSONAL GREED JUSTIFIES EVERYTHING.

ALSO, PRIVATE LIVES ARE LEGITIMATE PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

AND THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR IS ALWAYS RIGHT!

DO I HAVE CAREER OPTIONS, OR WHAT?

I THINK I NEED TO START HANGING AROUND WITH OTHER ANIMALS.

I'M NOT GOING TO SCHOOL ANY MORE.

OH?

NOPE! I'VE DECIDED TO BE A "HUNTER-GATHERER" WHEN I GROW UP! I'LL BE LIVING NAKED IN A TROPICAL FOREST, SUBSISTING ON BERRIES, GRUBS, AND THE OCCASIONAL FROG, AND SPENDING MY FREE TIME GROOMING FOR LICE!

ALL THE EXPERTS SAY IT'S BAD PARENTING TO SQUELCH A KID'S AMBITIONS.

MISS WORMWOOD, I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MATH LESSON.

YES?

GIVEN THAT, SOONER OR LATER, WE'RE ALL JUST GOING TO DIE, WHAT'S THE POINT OF LEARNING ABOUT INTEGERS?

TURN TO PAGE 83, CLASS.

Nobody likes us "BIG PICTURE" people.

THE PROBLEM WITH PEOPLE IS THEY DON'T LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE.

EVENITUALLY, WE'RE EACH GOING TO DIE, OUR SPECIES WILL GO EXTINCT, THE SUN WILL EXPLODE, AND THE UNIVERSE WILL COLLAPSE.

EXISTENCE IS NOT ONLY TEMPORARY, IT'S POINTLESS! WE'RE ALL DOOMED, AND WORSE, NOTHING MATTERS!

I SEE WHY PEOPLE DON'T LIKE TO LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE.

WELL, IT PUTS A BAD DAY IN PERSPECTIVE.

MISS WORMWOOD, COULD WE ARRANGE OUR SEATS IN A CIRCLE AND HAVE A LITTLE DISCUSSION?

SPECIFICALLY, I'D LIKE TO DEBATE WHETHER CANNIBALISM OUGHT TO BE GROUNDS FOR LENIENCY IN MURDERS, SINCE IT'S LESS WASTEFUL.

FOR SOME REASON, THEY'D RATHER TEACH US STUFF THAT ANY FOOL CAN LOOK UP IN A BOOK.

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humor me

by Izzy Gesell

We recently spoke with Marvin "Buzz" Gardens, America's First Fly, the winged insect that whirs around the White House. His ancestors have been at the President's home since the Gerald Ford administration. The previous First Fly's family was exterminated during the Great Fumigation that fogged the White House following Richard Nixon's departure.

The fly's on-the-wall perspective of Clintonian democracy is many-sided. He maintains President Clinton's biggest mistake was believing THE AMERICAN PEOPLE want change enough to actually change. As it turns out, we wanted instantaneous change that affected everyone but ourselves. Told we'd be willing to sacrifice some personal privilege for the common good, Billy C. bought that, too. What a lie! This country is Pinocchio and the national debt is our nose after 220 years of independence. "Cut the defense budget, Prez," we panted. "Just don't close any bases around here." "Pass an energy tax, Congresspod," we pontificated. "Only, remember to exempt the one I make my living in." "Let gay and lesbians into the military, General," we snickered. "Of course, they'll have to keep their clothes on until they're discharged."

Marv puts his many fingers on the heart of the problem facing President Bill when he points out that humans have no patience and are unable to take the long view of any problem. Andy Warhol's prediction of a universal 15 minute opportunity for fame has now shrunk to fit the average adult attention span: 15 seconds. This 15 seconds is immediately followed by a pundit's analysis, a TV mini-series, a revisionist history, and a Perot infomercial.

From where he clings, Mr. Garden believes Clinton suffers from the public's labeling of him as the Anti-Reagan. Remember how Ronny was roasted for doing nothing himself? Bill is now blasted for doing everything himself. Reagan was chastised for always going on vacation, Clinton is berated for not taking any time off. The Great Communicator's staff was too old, Bubba's is too young. The Californian was scoffed at for knowing nothing about anything. The Arkansan is berated for knowing too much about everything. The only common ground for the critics is First Lady land. Nancy Reagan was too domineering and so is Hillary. Leave it to a woman to bring opposing bands of men together.

Marvin suggested we help ourselves and our President by altering the way we respond to innovation. He suggests first understanding our personal relationship with change. The following will help you do that. It is a prototype for a new form of journalism--the interactive column. Participate by following the instructions. Please do not read this while driving.

INTERACTIVE MODULE ONE: Cross your arms in front of your body. Notice which arm is on top. Now, reverse arms so the other is on top. A bit uncomfortable, isn't it? Human beings are creatures of habit, very content doing things as they always have done. We resist the most trivial disruption to our comfort zone. If it feels even the slightest bit discomforting, we resist changing it.

INTERACTIVE MODULE TWO: Relax, take a couple of deep breaths, and picture yourself arriving home at the end of a typical day. Where do you park? In the same spot as the day before? What's the first thing you do upon entering your residence? A) Take your shoes off. B) Pet the dog. C) Answer the machine. D) _____. What's the second thing? Third? Fourth? Have you ever noticed how ingrained the routine of returning home is? We've choreographed an unconscious domestic dance for ourselves, so sure of the steps we could waltz it with our eyes closed.

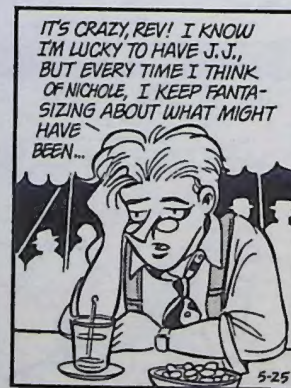
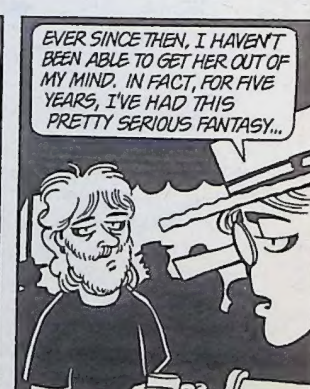
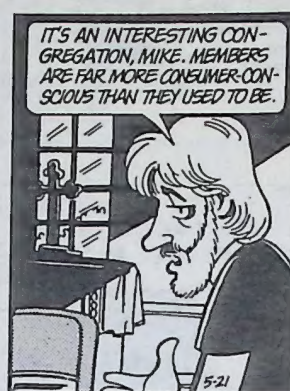
INTERACTIVE MODULE THREE: Next time you're in the supermarket, initiate your shopping in an aisle at the opposite end of the store from where you usually start. Then, go up the aisles you usually go down and vice versa. Note whether your body is comfortable doing this. Observe whether your internal compass isn't trying to get you back onto your usual path.

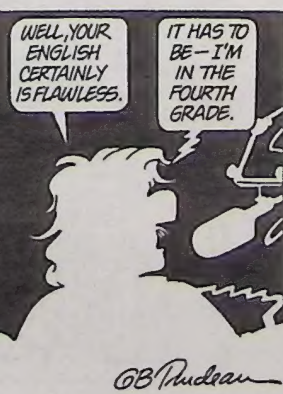
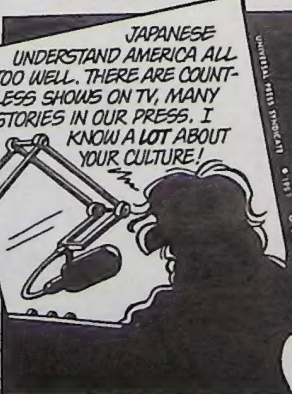
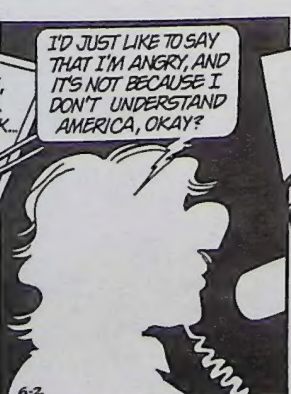
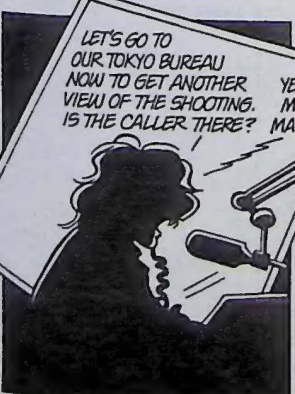
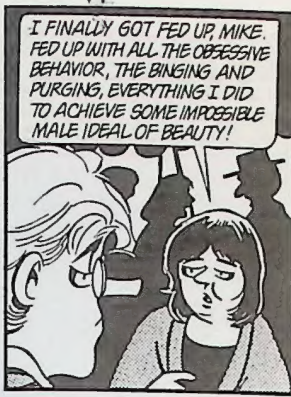
INTERACTIVE MODULE FOUR: Choose one of the habits in your life and change some action connected with it.

INTERACTIVE MODULE FIVE: Phone the White House and tell Billary you're sorry.

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU





KARAVAN IMPORTS



Once again,
it's time for
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